

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAR ES 02707 261156Z

43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 SAM-01

DHA-02 SCCT-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /108 W

----- 016804

R 261050Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2205

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NY

AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 2707

NAIROBI ALSO FOR RSO

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, TZ, XF, UG, IS

SUBJECT: TANZANIA AND HIJACKING: THE ENTEBBE CASE

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 2474 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. ALTHOUGH OFFICIAL TANGOV STATEMENT CONCERNING ENTEBBE CASE DEPLORED HIJACKINGS WHILE CONDEMNING ISRAELI RESCUE READ, ARTICLES IN LOCAL SWAHILI-LANGUAGE PRESS (WHICH CONTROLLED BY RULING PARTY) HAVE DEFENDED HIJACKINGS IN PRINCIPLE AND SUGGESTED THAT REVOLUTIONARY COUNTRIES SHOULD PROTECT HIJACKERS. WE WONDER WHETHER POTENTIAL HIJACKERS MAY COME TO SEE TANZANIA AS POTENTIAL REFUGE, AND THEREFORE WHETHER THERE ARE PREPARATIONS EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE FOR POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF

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PAGE 02 DAR ES 02707 261156Z

TANZANIA IN A HIJACKING INCIDENT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN OFFICIAL STATEMENT DENOUNCING ISRAELI RAID AGAINST HI-JACKERS AT ENTEBBE AIRPORT (REFTEL), TANGOV STATED "WE HAVE ALWAYS MAINTAINED THAT SUCH ENDANGERING OF HUMAN LIFE (I.E., HIJACKINGS) IS SOMETHING THAT MUST BE AVOIDED AND THAT NO EFFORTS BE SPARED TO AVOID RECURRENCE OF INCIDENTS OF THIS NATURE. IN THE PARTICULAR CASE OF THE HIJACKED PLANE TO ENTEBBE, WE WERE CONCERNED AT THE LIVES OF ALL HOSTAGES..."

3. IN MESSAGES ADDRESSED TO TANZANIAN DOMESTIC AUDIENCE, HOWEVER, TANZANIAN OFFICIAL MEDIA HAVE JUSTIFIED THE HIJACKING ITSELF.

4. FULL PAGE ARTICLE IN TANU PARTY SWAHILI-LANGUAGE DAILY UHURU JULY 9, UNDER HEADLINE "EXPLANATION CONCERNING INVASION OF UGANDA", DENOUNCED ISRAELI ACTION AT ENTEBBE. IN THE COURSE OF ARTICLE, THE UNIDENTIFIED AUTHOR ARGUED THAT PALESTINIAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS WERE JUSTIFIED "TO USE ATTACKS IN THE AIR OR IN OTHER ECONOMIC OR SECURITY INSTALLATIONS" BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO LAND BASE FROM WHICH TO WAGE CONVENTIONAL WAR. "IT IS CLEAR," ARTICLE GOES ON, "THAT THESE DEEDS OF TERROR HAVE HELPED OBTAIN RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS. THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION HAS SUCCEEDED IN HAVING AN OBSERVER DELEGATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND MANY OF ITS AGENCIES, AND IT IS PARTICIPATING IN THE DISCUSSIONS TO RESOLVE THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. THE LIBERATION EFFORT BY DIRECT ATTACKS FROM THE ARAB COUNTRIES, TOGETHER WITH THE SYSTEM OF TERROR AND DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS ARE ALL PARTS OF ONE GOAL, THE RECOGNITION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RIGHTS OF PALESTINAINS. THESE METHODS OF STRUGGLE RESULT FROM THE ACTUAL SITUATION, AND THE USE OF TERROR DOES NOT COME FROM THE MADNESS OF PEOPLE LIKE DR. GEORGE HABBASHI, LEADER OF THE POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE. TO PUT AN END TO THESE METHODS IS TO PUT AN END TO THE STRUGGLE ITSELF, BY RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE."

5. ON JULY 17, UHURU PUBLISHED AN EVEN STRONGER DEFENSE OF HI-JACKINGS, IN THE COURSE OF CONDEMNING THE WEST FOR PRAISING THE RESCUE OF A HANDFUL OF RICH "JEWS AND EUROPEANS" WHILE CONSIDERING VALUELESS THE LIVES OF PALESTINIANS AND AFRICANS.

6. "IN THEIR STRUGGLE OF MORE THAN 40 YEARS, THE PALESTINIANS  
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PAGE 03     DAR ES 02707 261156Z

BEGAIN TO USE THE METHOD OF HIJACKING IMPERIALIST AIRPLANES ONLY TEN YEARS AGO, AND HAVE SUCCEEDED IN USING THEIR CAPTIVES AS A WEAPON TO OBLIGE THE IMPERIALISTS AND PUPPET GOVERNMENTS TO FREE THEIR FELLOW REVOLUTIONARIES FROM JAIL. THIS METHOD WAS THUS BEGUN WITH SPECIAL REVOLUTIONARY GOALS, AND IT HAS SUCCEEDED IN ACCOMPLISHING SOME OF THESE GOALS.

7. "AN EVEN GREATER RESULT OF THIS METHOD IS THAT IT HAS HELPED

TO GAIN RECOGNITION FROM THE WHOLE WORLD FOR THE DIFFICULTIES AND CALAMITIES OF THE PALESTINIANS. PEOPLE EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD TODAY RECOGNIZE THAT THE MIDDLE EAST IS A PROBLEM WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED....

8. "ANY REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE IS BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL. OPPRESSION AND EXPLOITATION ARE THINGS CONDUCTED INTERNATIONALLY; THUS THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THEM MUST ALSO BE CONDUCTED INTERNATIONALLY. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS TO SUPPORT FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN THE MEASURES WHICH THEY DECIDE ON, SINCE THE METHODS THEY USE RESULT FROM THE SITUATION CONFRONTING THEM AS THEY THEMSELVES SEE IT."

9. ARTICLE GOES ON TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "PROGRESSIVE" AND "ANTIREVOLUTIONARY" HIJACKINGS, SO THAT "NOT...EVERY COUNTRY WHICH PROTECTS HIJACKERS IS PROGRESSIVE," BUT SAYS THAT "IN GENERAL, THE HIJACKINGS CONDUCTED BY REVOLUTIONARIES AGAINST THE ANTIPROGRESSIVE COUNTRIES ARE RIGHT AND ADVANCE THE REVOLUTION." IT SAYS "INVASION" LIKE THAT OF ISRAELIS AT ENTEBBE IS POSSIBLE ONLY WHERE "THE COUNTRIES RECEIVING THESE HEROES" ARE WEAK AND INTERNALLY ROTTEN, AND UNABLE TO "DEFEND THESE REVOLUTIONARIES," SUCH AS UGANDA. "ANY COUNTRY WHOSE FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENTS ARE COMPATIBLE WITH ITS INTERNAL SITUATION...CAN AND WILL BE ABLE AT ANY TIME TO DEFEND FREEDOM FIGHTERS TAKING REFUGE THERE...."

10. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS HAS NOT PUBLISHED SIMILAR ARTICLES, BUT DAILY NEWS ON JULY 19 REPORTED BRIEFLY SPEECH TO TANU YOUTH LEAGUE BY POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR YASH TANDON, IN WHICH HE DESCRIBED HIJACKING AS "BRILLIANT FORM OF WARFARE WHICH REVOLUTIONARIES USE WHEN IN EXTREME OPPRESSION," AND CALLED PALESTINIAN HIJACKINGS GENERALLY "FUNCTIONAL" IN OBTAINING RECOGNITION FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE

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PAGE 04 DAR ES 02707 261156Z

11. COMMENT: WHILE WE DO NOT SUGGEST THAT TANZANIA WOULD WELCOME TANZANIAN INVOLVEMENT IN A HIJACKING INCIDENT, BOTH PLO AND LIBYA ARE REPRESENTED HERE AND PRESUMABLY AWARE OF (IF THEY DID NOT FOSTER) THE ARTICLES CITED ABOVE. THEY, AND OTHER POTENTIAL FOMENTORS OF HIJACKING INCIDENTS, ARE ALSO UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE THAT TANZANIA IS NOT A SIGNATORY TO 1970 HAGUE CONVENTION ON HIJACKING.

12. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE CANNOT BUT WONDER WHETHER TANZANIA MIGHT NOT APPEAR TO SOME POTENTIAL HIJACKER AS A POSSIBLE PLACE OF REFUGE, PARTICULARLY SINCE ENTEBBE CASE HAS DRAWN ATTENTION TO THIS PART OF WORLD.

13. FOR DEPARTMENT AND NAIROBI: EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED DEPARTMENTAL

GUIDANCE CONCERNING A VARIETY OF KIDNAPPING AND HOSTAGE SITUATIONS,  
BUT WE DO NOT RECALL ANYTHING DEALING SPECIFICALLY WITH HIJACKING  
SITUATION. WE WONDER WHETHER THERE IS GUADANCE WE SHOULD HAVE  
AVAILABLE, OR PREPARATIONS WE SHOULD MAKE IN ADVANCE, IN EVENT  
HIJACKED AIRCRAFT LANDS AT DAR ES SALAAM AIRPORT, POSSIBLY WITH  
AMERICAN NATIONALS ABOARD.  
SPAIN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, POLICIES, LIBERATION FRONTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
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